

REMARKS

As a preliminary matter, the claims have been amended to better define the invention. Support for the amendment may be found, for example, in Figs. 6 and 7 and on pages 14, 18 and 24 of the specification.

Claims 1 and 4-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Lewis et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,537,464). The claims have been amended to better define the invention. Support for the amendments may be found at least in Figs. 6 and 7 and the description on pages 14, 18 and 24 of the specification as filed.

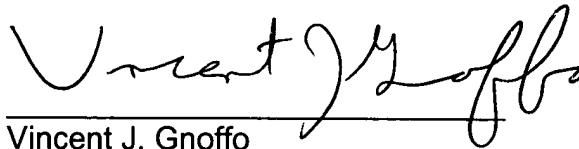
Lewis et al. discloses means for assembling and signaling billing information and caller-dialed-number information to a service provider in the voice channel during call setup to connecting carriers. The service provider is able to utilize the billing information and the caller-dialed-number information for making the decision to deny a call requesting the service information. This enables the service provider to limit services to only those callers for whom service fees can be charged to the caller's telephone bill. A local exchange performs digit analysis and translation before routing the call to the service provider. A local exchange carrier may translate a caller-dialed 7-digit 555 number into a ten-digit phantom number and then passes the call to the appropriate carrier assigned the ten-digit routing plan. It is determined whether an automatic number identification number is received during the process and, if so, call processing continues; if not, the call is blocked or terminated with an appropriate message. Col. 7, ll. 50-58.

Lewis et al. neither discloses nor suggest converting the call and then completing it when there is no automatic number identification associated with the call. Claim 1 as amended recites a "first record providing a directive that only calls having an automatic number identification associated therewith are acceptable for completion directly to the first number and a call to the first NXX number not having an associated automatic number identification is converted by a processor of the telecommunication service before being completed". Claim 5 as amended recites "converting the first NXX call before completion when the first NXX call does not include an associated automatic number identification". Claim 15 as amended recites converting "the first NXX call to

the first number because a call to the first number not having an associated automatic number identification is to be completed".

For all of the above reasons, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of the present application. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at (312) 321-4224 if there are any outstanding issues that could be resolved through a telephone conference.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Vincent J. Gnoffo", written over a horizontal line.

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